

Prayers for Pagans Offered to Christians

As I See It

Katy's Green Thumb

By Pat Costa



For years I have been listening to Doc and Katy Abraham on WHAM radio and even longer have been reading Doc's common sense advice in his Green Thumb column in the Sunday Democrat and Chronicle.

Now, I can watch these gardening experts in living color at 12:30 p.m. Sundays on Channel 13.

They do not look as I expected them to. Doc is younger, for one thing. And I expected Katy to look like Kate Smith's twin — but only because to me she sounds almost exactly like the singer.

Instead she is a compact, pleasant faced woman who interrupts her husband almost constantly during the show and manages to make it look merely spontaneous instead of what would be interpreted in another woman as very bad manners.

What's more, the distaff side of this team always has something worthwhile to say. She seems as knowledgeable as her husband and together they manage to disseminate a good deal of information in a half hour.

During the 30 minutes I

watched, on one recent afternoon, we received a quick course in landscaping, the names of bushes which will attract birds, a pruning lesson for poinsettias, and a promise of how to start bushes from cuttings the next time around. At the same time a couple of different pamphlets were offered: one on growing tomatoes and another on the care of African violets. I sent for both.

Some topics the couple might take up in future programs include how to cut down on yard work and the advantages of green concrete over Kentucky bluegrass as a front lawn.

Kudos to Marine Midland for underwriting the Ingmar Bergman film festival and to Channel 21 for presenting it.

After seeing the initial offering, "The Magician", I have concluded that the Swedish film maker is still as obscure at times for me as he was 10 years ago when I first saw some of his works. Nevertheless, he still manages to evoke emotion of the kind that seldom goes hand in hand with American films.

Dayton — "Blessed are the aged in an affluent society, for they shall be forgotten."

"They took a black man's heart and gave it to a white ... O teach us from this man-made miracle, Lord, that we all need new hearts, hearts of understanding, compassion, tolerance and love."

"Today we didn't produce calories enough to 'Give us this day our daily bread.' Some went to bed with empty bellies. Two-thirds of the world's population. People, Lord. Women, children, men. Let's see, Lord, how did I fare today? Breakfast? Well, bacon, eggs, cereal, milk and sugar, coffee, toast and marmalade.

"For lunch: Just ham salad, some chocolate ice cream and coffee. Dinner I really enjoyed, Lord. Roast duck, green peas, new potatoes ..."

And so it goes in an unorthodox collection of unusual prayers in an out-of-the-ordinary prayer book titled "Prayers for Pagans," written by a Methodist minister from Sydney, Australia, and published by the Catholic firm of Geo. A. Pflaum.

"I have not been so excited over a book of prayers since Michael Quoist's volume, 'Prayers,'" commented the U.S. Jesuit theologian, Rev. Walter Burghardt. "Roger Bush sees more imaginatively than most of us, feels more acutely, writes more understandably — and prays more honestly."

Roger Bush is a former engineer and social worker who is now a Methodist minister and superintendent of the "Northside Methodist Mission" in downtown Sydney, where he also appears regularly on radio and television.

Describing the title and the content of "Prayers for Pagans," a series of prose-poem prayers, the publisher said the prayers "are addressed to God

in an 'I-Thou' approach by a modern 'pagan,' a Methodist who replaces traditional prayers with poignant conversations with God."

One prayer, titled "Hollywood Visit," contrasts the millions and billions of years God took to fashion a desert or a hillside with the short amount of time the movie industry needs to create:

"Here they do it overnight with foam and plastic, a little wood and a dab of paint. And millions, seeing this in glorious Pana-vision wide-screen technicolor, think it far more lovely than your poor effort.

"You see, Lord, they wait for the right light to photograph, or so arrange it with Kleig lights. And, of course, they miss the real majesty and the patient power of the slowly changing wonder of it all."

In a striking allegory about the Palm Sunday triumphant entry of Christ into Jerusalem, the Rev. Mr. Bush prays:

"I too once rode as victor, Lord. We came in wartime to a little village in Belgium. The first liberating troops ... Vive la liberators. Throwing flowers. Eager hands stretched out in gratitude. But soon the novelty wore off. They found us flesh and blood. And that 'liberation' meant a new responsibility, a harsher discipline.

"Didn't you find this, Lord?"

That people expected a miracle instead of a word?"

In one short prayer, the minister deals with time-saving devices:

"We just never seem to have time these days. But we should, Lord, we should. We've got a modern home, Lord, as you know. The grass takes only a moment to cut with the power mower. And the kitchen, well, I ask you. Could we get more devices into it?"

"There's the mixer, the hot water heater, electric knife-sharpener, the power can-opener, a toaster you don't have to watch, a dishwasher, a garbage disposal unit, and down in the laundry there's a washer that needs only a button pressed.

"Then, Lord, why is it I am always rushing? Why is it that we have so little time together as a family? Could it be, Lord, that in saving so much time I have become miserly, so miserly that it no longer means anything to me ..."

"Lord, help me to make my time yours, that I might do the things that need doing, like spending time with my children, and my wife. Time to speak a kind word to others. Time to show selfless concern. And above all, Lord, to take just a few moments of quiet wherein I might speak to you, in timelessness."

(Catholic Press Features)



Mary Jean Rowan, as Becky, is thrilled by Tom's (Brian Baynes') suggestion that they be engaged in the musical "Tom Sawyer" at St. Agnes High School.

'Tom Sawyer' Slated At St. Agnes High

Storytellers' Summer Playhouse opens its sixth season on July 9 and 10 with the performance of the musical "Tom Sawyer."

The cast of seventy-seven boys and girls, headed by Brian Baynes as Tom, Brian O'Hare as Huck Finn, Mary Jean Rowan as Becky Thatcher, and Mary Beth Gaspar as Aunt Polly, is under the direction of Sister Virginia Hogan, S.S.J., and Mr. William Andia.

Besides the 8:15 evening performances on both dates, there is a special morning performance on Thursday, July 9, at the request of day camp and summer school groups.

General admission tickets for

all performances are \$1.00; reserved seats are \$1.50. They are available at the box office at St. Agnes High School, 300 East River Rd.

D'Youville VP To Head Dunbarton

Washington — (NC) — Dr. Paul G. Buchanan, 43 of Buffalo is new president of Dunbarton College of Holy Cross here.

He has been vice president at D'Youville College, Buffalo, since 1966.

Founded in 1935 by the Sisters of Holy Cross, Dunbarton has a resident student body of 400 women.

'Flying Priest' Plans Retirement In Africa

Paderborn, Germany—(RNS) — Father Paul Schulte, O.M.I., the German-born "flying priest," has announced that he soon will leave Germany for good, to spend the rest of his life at a mission post in Africa. He is 75 years old.

Famed as "the world's first flying missionary," Father Schulte — now an American citizen — was born in Magdeburg in what is now East Germany.

A pilot during World War I, he was ordained in 1922 and sent to Africa. He decided to put aircraft to use and in 1927 founded the German Missionary Transport Working Committee.

On May 8, 1936, Father Schulte made headlines when he celebrated Mass aboard the Graf Zeppelin, en route to New York. The following year, he flew to America to promote the use of planes in Arctic mission work.

When World War II broke out, he was interned in Canada and later transferred to the U.S., where he founded the "Wings of Mercy," a training school for missionary pilots.

In 1955, the priest built a training school for pilots near Bonn, Germany, with the aid of friends, to promote a spirit of comradeship among youths of different nationalities and religious beliefs.



Samuel Jones, resident conductor of the Rochester Philharmonic, leads his orchestra in performance. They are slated to play at a public outdoor concert at the 1970 Rose Festival in Newark, N.Y.

Samuel Jones to Conduct At Rose Garden Concert

The Rochester Philharmonic, one of thirty major symphonies in the U.S. today, will perform a public, outdoor concert at the fountain court in the rose display area on Tuesday, July 7, at 7:30 p.m., in Newark, N.Y.

The Philharmonic is currently playing its 7th season in the upstate region.

The performance will be under the baton of Samuel Jones, Resident Conductor, who, at the age of 35, has already achieved national attention. He

was recently selected as a guest conductor for the Naumberg Concert Series this summer in New York's Central Park.

Named to the post of Assistant Conductor of the Rochester Philharmonic in 1965—over 90 other candidates—he was appointed Associate Conductor after his third season with the Orchestra. In 1968, he was named Resident Conductor.

Jones leads the Philharmonic in more than 60 concerts a year.